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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letters of Commendation

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation in paragraph 6 for your action.

2. As you will recall, the [ ] Panel last year came to certain conclusions on the CORONA/MURAL system and made appropriate recommendations. A limited analysis by the ED/S&T staff indicated that the [ ] Panel may not have had sufficient data to draw a proper conclusion. This staff study indicated the necessity for a very careful evaluation of the factors which prevented the CORONA/MURAL system from providing maximum resolution at all times. It was then decided that we should form a true working group composed of the best technical brains available to look into this question in some detail. We were very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Sidney Drell to act as Chairman and we assigned Mr. Robert Chapman of the DD/S&T as his full time project assistant.

25X1

25X1

3. The Drell Panel was charged with the responsibility of looking into those factors which were limiting the CORONA/MURAL system. The D/NRO stated that he expected to use this information to provide for appropriate changes to the CORONA/MURAL system and to provide background information for the development of other and newer systems. The Drell Committee was charged not to get into the subject of hardware in this respect.

4. As Dr. Drell and Mr. Chapman got further into this subject with their technical experts, it became painfully clear we had a very complicated inter-related scientific problem on our hands and that the short study without benefit of experimental results would not answer all our questions.

25X1

Copy 2 of 7

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25X1

- 2 -

In spite of the large amount of effort devoted to aerial reconnaissance, this is the first time that the physics of the image quality were ever studied in a meaningful way.

5. It is the general consensus that this Panel quite successfully analyzed the complicated technical inter-relationships and pointed out the important factors involved. The necessary further experiments which are required were also indicated. The success of the Drell Panel is due primarily to the dynamic leadership of Dr. Drell who undertook the task at considerable inconvenience to his personal plans. Also, much of the success is due to the very competent full time staff support that he received from Mr. Robert Chapman of the DD/S&T Office of Research and Development. Mr. Chapman accomplished this while still acting as the Deputy Assistant Director of the Office which is, as you know, in the throes of formation.

6. The contribution of these two gentlemen to the success of the Drell Panel is of such a magnitude as to warrant a letter of appreciation from you. Truly, they have both performed beyond that which is normally expected of very competent individuals. I therefore recommend that you sign the two letters of commendation which are attached.

ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
(Science and Technology)

**Attachments**

2 Letters of Commendation

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